

Message Text

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ACTION DHA-02

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: SHUM IZ
SUBJECT: INTERNATIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS FEDERATION VISIT TO IRAQ

REF: BAGHDAD 0867

1. CONCRETE FACTS ABOUT THE OFFICERS, STRUCTURE, MEMBERSHIP AND PURPOSE OF THE INTERNATIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS FEDERATION (FIHR) ARE DIFFICULT TO SECURE. BAGHDAD REQUEST FOR INFORMATION ABOUT THE ORGANIZATION IS THE SECOND WITHIN THE PAST YEAR. IN BOTH INSTANCES, RESPONSES HAVE BEEN LESS THAN ENLIGHTENING.
2. THE FIHR IS HEADQUARTERED IN BRUSSELS WHERE A MR. DEKOCK (BELGIAN) IS PRESIDENT. THE SYG DENIS PAYOT (SWISS) IS A LAWYER IN GENEVA.
3. IN A CONVERSATION WITH MISOFF LAST YEAR PAYOT'S ANSWERS ABOUT THE FIHR WERE ELUSIVE. AS SYG HE WAS UNABLE TO PROVIDE THE FEDERATION'S ADDRESS IN BRUSSELS.
4. AT THE UN NGO OFFICE IN GENEVA THERE ARE NO STATUTES ON FILE FOR THE FEDERATION. THEY COULD ONLY SAY THAT IT IS COMPOSED OF NATIONAL LEAGUES WHICH ARE AUTONOMOUS

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AND THAT IT "DEALS WITH DIFFERENT ISSUES ON HUMAN RIGHTS". THERE IS A RUMOR THAT A SPLIT EXISTS WITHIN THE FEDERATION BUT MISSION WAS UNABLE TO CONFIRM THIS. IF SPLIT DOES EXIST SITUATION MAY BE SORTED OUT DURING THE FIHR GENERAL ASSEMBLY SCHEDULED FOR JUNE IN PARIS. NEW OFFICERS WILL BE ELECTED DURING THE SESSION.

5. THE FEDERATION IS REGISTERED AS AN NGO UNDER CATEGORY II. OF THE SEVEN REPRESENTATIVES ATTENDING THE 1977 SESSION OF THE HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION, TWO WERE ARABS. POSSIBLY THE LATTER WERE REPRESENTATIVES FROM THE ARAB LEAGUE OF THE FIHR.

6. WITH SUCH FRAGMENTED INFORMATION MISSION CANNOT COMMENT ON THE REPORT CITED IN REFTEL.SORENSEN

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